

A SHORT
E S S A Y

ON THE
T E E T H, &c.

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EXETER.

EXETER:

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MR. SIGMOND most earnestly recommends the following observations to the perusal of the Nobility, Gentry, and Public in general; but more particularly to Parents, and those entrusted with the care of Young Persons.

It is not here intended to give a Complete Account of the Structure of the Teeth and Gums; but to furnish the Public with such Remarks only on some Disorders and proper Treatment of these parts, as may be of general use; as, during his practice, several melancholy instances have occurred to convince him, how much the havock is to be attributed to that parent of disease NEGLIGENCE.

Mr. Sigmond here gives the most simple and efficacious means of *preserving* and *restoring* those useful and ornamental organs; and founds his directions on a long course of extensive experience. And in this little tract it will at the same time fully appear, how much the early *decay*,

deformity, and perhaps total loss of the teeth, arise from INATTENTION.

In treating this subject, the simple course of nature, and her progress from infancy to old age, will be followed ; and that peculiar treatment be explained, which ought to be observed in the various disorders, and at different periods of life

Of the Origin of the Teeth.

The origin of the teeth is thought to be from a white glutinous matter, which nature implants in proper cells in the jaws, and which gradually hardens, takes root, and extends, till it forces itself thro' the bone. At this crisis a whitish circle appears over the growing tooth, and as this approaches towards the skin, the part becomes inflamed, and the infant is afflicted with gripes, vomiting, restlessness, sudden startings, and sometimes with epileptic convulsions, and even death. During these symptoms, attention should be paid to prevent costiveness ; and on some occasions, the use of the lancet may be necessary, in order to facilitate the passage of the tooth through

through the gum. But for this operation, a person of skill should be applied to.

Of Breeding or Cutting the first Teeth.

The period at which nature performs this operation is generally at the age of four or six months: The fore teeth appear first, and their neighbours rise in succession; so that at the end of two or three years the child generally possesses ten in each jaw, which remain till the age of six or seven.

Of the second Set of Teeth.

From the age of six or seven till about twelve or fifteen years, the first set of teeth successively quit their sockets, and are replaced by a second. During this operation of nature, it frequently happens that some of the first set are so firmly rooted as to resist the impulse of those which are to take their places; and depressed by that obstruction, the new ones receive various deformed shapes, and generally become diseased. Nor are an irregular shape and misarrangement the only

only evils to which they are now exposed;* from the same causes they receive a disagreeable blackness, prognosticating their total loss. The danger of deformity and disease being therefore so great, the advice and assistance of a Dentist is doubly necessary at this critical period: It is his duty to watch the progress of the new teeth, and, in due time, to extract those which may obstruct the growth, destroy the beauty, and shorten the duration of their successors. Nor are a few visits sufficient to ensure a just arrangement of these constituents of female beauty; for the period of danger being long, and the operation of nature proportionably slow, a frequent and continued attention is expedient.

Of the Disorders of the Teeth.

Disorders of the teeth vary according to their causes. The origin of almost all

* Persons, whose teeth grow in this disagreeable manner, are desirous of concealing them from view; by which an ungraceful habit is acquired, and that freedom and ease in conversation are destroyed, which they would otherwise have displayed.

disorders of the teeth and gums is to be traced to that early period in which nature is employed in shedding the teeth. The defects are then generated, from which ensue the agonies of the tooth-ach, and their decay at different periods.*

The *Tartar* is a foe in a very high degree mischievous to the structure of the teeth, even when it operates alone; but when its destructive powers are combined with the pernicious force of other disorders, their united malignity doubles the danger, and is seriously alarming. The salival secretions of the mouth and throat, during sleep, being in a very

* Many persons during the violence of the tooth-ach precipitately send for the nearest tooth-drawer; whose *principal* consideration is the attainment of his fee; and to secure this, the eradicating instrument is instantly employed. But this practice is as barbarous as mercenary, and oftentimes attended with fatal consequences. Extraction should be made only when there is no other remedy. Numerous are the sources of pain in the teeth and gums; and numerous are the means of relief. The liberal Dentist will, therefore, hesitate to deprive a patient of such serviceable instruments of digestion, till he has exercised every probable means of saving them.

little degree of activity, become putrid and corrosive from the food which remains between the uncleaned teeth ; and if necessary cleanliness be neglected, inspissate and degenerate into an extraneous and tartarous substance, which insinuating round the neck of the teeth, under the gums, surround the roots of the former, and cause the gums to recede. Nor is the constant pressure of the tartar, gradually wasting the teeth, the only evil here ; there are many other concomitant circumstances equally dangerous and disagreeable ; the gums become spongy, scorbutic, and so relaxed, as scarcely to have strength sufficient to retain the teeth ; and at the same time the breath acquires a nauseous and foetid smell in its passage through this region of complicated disease.

But however easy it may be to prevent such evils by TIMELY precaution, great care ought to be taken in the *application* of remedies : and these ought to be adapted to the age and constitution of the patient as well as to the particular stage of the disorder. Diseases of the teeth, like all
others

others incident to the human frame, require proper advice and assistance to mitigate them on their first appearance. In some cases, perhaps, a simple cleaning only may effect a cure ; but the manner in which this is to be done, and the choice of proper materials, may not be happily discerned, without the assistance of a skilful Dentist ; for the structure of the teeth in different persons is so various, that what will speedily cure one patient, will irrecoverably injure another.

In a variety of circumstances, it happens, that however efficacious the application of a Powder or a Tincture may finally prove, yet the preparatory use of the Instrument is necessary, in order to remove such obstacles as may oppose a due effect. And here a skilful hand becomes extremely necessary ; inasmuch as the unskilful one might totally destroy that, which he vainly promises to preserve.

From what has been premised, it is hoped it will appear, that great caution is necessary, as well in selecting the proper ingredients for composing those
Elec-

Electuaries, Powders, and Lotions, as in directing the proper mode of applying them to use.

Mr. Sigmond, having attentively studied this branch of anatomy and the chirurgical art, is fully convinced of these truths; and flatters himself, that by such application, improved by an extensive and successful practice, for several years, he has attained such a degree of experience as will fairly entitle him to the confidence and approbation of a candid public.

*Long approved Treatments of the Teeth,
according to the different Periods
of Life.*

Children of three years old should be taught to clean their teeth every morning, with a convenient Tooth-Brush and cold water, and to rince the mouth both morning and evening; which practice ought to be continued during life.

Children of eight years old should use a proper DENTIFRICE once a week only; but continue the use of a brush and cold water as above.

Persons

Persons of twenty or thirty years old, who have not particularly attended to the above rules, should use the Quintessence of Pearl and Dentifrice, as follows, viz.—Take three spoonfuls of the Quintessence of Pearl in a tea-cup; wet the Tooth-Brush, and clean all your teeth very well; brush them pretty briskly till the Liquid from the friction produces a froth. Then wet the brush a second time in the Liquid, dip it in the Dentrifice, and repeat the cleaning as before, rubbing them upwards and downwards, and but little crossways, though teeth in a sound and firm state may be rubbed safely with a proper brush in any direction. The Liquid and Powder may be made use of twice a week, and afterwards the same treatment repeated as mentioned above.

Persons of forty or fifty years old, who have to that age neglected the means above prescribed, are now advised to adopt them; and though the exercise of the brush may in some degree be painful, and make their disordered gums bleed, they are not to be alarmed, but proceed
with

with resolution till the humours be discharged, and the teeth and gums recover a sound and wholesome state; to which end, it will be necessary to use the Quintessence of Pearl only.

To render the Breath sweet and pleasant.

Persons subject to a disagreeable taste in the mouth, generally occasioned by hollow and decayed teeth, are advised to follow the rules above given in cleaning their teeth; and afterwards to take a table spoonful of the Quintessence, and mix it with as much warm water; with this rinse the mouth very briskly, keeping it in the mouth for a minute or two, in the morning fasting and in the evening going to bed, which will render the breath sweet and pleasant.

Of picking the Teeth.

Persons who accustom themselves to pick their teeth, should use a quill for that purpose, as being preferable to any other substance. No remnants of food should be suffered to continue between the teeth. Unripe fruit is very pernicious to children,
when

when they are cutting teeth. Cracking of nuts or drawing of corks with the teeth should be avoided. Hot liquors, and ~~cold~~ ice-creams, &c. should be cautiously used; as extreme heat or cold impede the circulation of the fluids in the teeth, and are therefore detrimental.

Mr. Sigmond having thus briefly endeavoured to give the public some idea of the right treatment of the teeth, &c. flatters himself, that, during five years residence in this part of the kingdom, his doctrine has been amply verified by the beneficial effects which his good care, strict attention, and mild treatment, have produced amongst his numerous and respectable friends.

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THE acknowledged efficacy of Mr. Sigmond's compositions having tempted several persons to issue prejudicial counterfeits thereof, he thinks it a duty he owes the public, to adopt some plan for preventing such a dangerous imposition. For this purpose, the public are desired to observe, that each bottle



and box of his genuine Preparations, and also his Brushes, will in future have a label, with his coat of arms thereon, as represented in the margin.

HIS QUINTESSENCE OF PEARL, in octagon bottles, price 2s. 6d. duty included — his DENTIFRICE, in neat wooden boxes, price 2s. 6d. duty included — and his BRUSHES, with black ebony handles, of a peculiar shape, size, and texture, adapted for use, with a label pasted on their handles, price

price 9d. each, are sold by the following persons, viz. Mr. Richards, perfumer to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, No. 2, Dover-street, London; Mrs. Newton, milliner, Devizes; Mr. ~~Skinner~~, *Ta* perfumer, opposite the Pump-room, and Mr. Crutwell, printer, Bath; Mr. Shercliff, Circulating Library, Bristol; Mr. Goadby, Sherborne; Mr. Cogle, perfumer, Bridgewater; Miss Norris, milliner, and Mr. Ludlow, hair-dresser, Taunton; Mr. Basleigh, shopkeeper, Honiton; Mr. Salter, hair-dresser, Tiverton; Mr. Murch, bookseller, Barnstaple; Mrs. Marshall, Totnes; Mr. Haydon, bookseller to his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, and Mrs. Baron, milliner, Plymouth; Mr. Hoxland, bookseller, Plymouth-Dock; Miss Swindle, milliner, Launceston; Mr. Upham, haberdasher, and Messrs. Floud and Shiles, haberdashers, and Mr. Gale, perfumer, Exeter; also by

Mr. S I G M O N D,

At his house, nearly opposite the Devonshire Bank, in the Church-yard, Exeter;

Where he continues to give advice in all disorders,

orders, deformities, and defects of the teeth and gums, and supplies the loss of teeth by real or artificial ones, on a new plan, so as to answer every desired purpose.

Mr. Sigmond's peculiar method of assisting the progress of dentition in children and young person, has been distinguished with singular success, and established his reputation in this respect with the principal nobility and gentry.

Families in the country attended by the year, likewise boarding-schools.

N. B. To prevent disappointments, such persons in the country as intend to visit EXETER for his assistance, are requested to favour him with a line a few days previous to their coming to the city.

Exeter, March, 1790.

F I N I S.